

SAT vs ACT

SAT HIGHLIGHTS

Shorter reading passages
 More difficult text complexity, more vocabulary
 Fewer math topics, but more in depth
 Students use their own devices (tablets and computers)

ACT HIGHLIGHTS

Longer reading passages, less vocabulary
 More straightforward but faster paced questions
 Greater variety of math topics with simpler problem-solving
 Emphasizes science reasoning and graphical literacy

98
questions



Digital



Adaptive: Easier or harder
 2nd module based on first
 module performance



Built-in Desmos or personal
 graphing calculator



More time per question

Total score range:
400-1600

Total: 2 hrs 24 min
 (including break)



Total: 3 hrs 10 min
 (including break)

215
questions



Paper or digital version
 available in select
 locations



Linear: Test is the same
 for all students



Personal graphing
 calculator



Less time per question

Total score range:
1-36

START

Reading & Writing

Base Module
 27 questions / 32 min

Reading & Writing

Adaptive Module
 27 questions / 32 min

1 HR

Break / 10 min

Math

Base Module
 22 questions / 35 min

2 HR

Math

Adaptive Module
 22 questions / 35 min

3 HR

START

English

75 questions / 45 min

1 HR

Math

60 questions / 60 min

2 HR

Break / 15 min

Reading

40 questions / 35 min

3 HR

Science

40 questions / 35 min

SAT & ACT Percentiles

How do you know if you are better on the SAT or ACT? Compare percentiles!

Percentile ranks show how your scaled scores compare to those earned by recent high school graduates who took the tests. For example, a 25 on the ACT places you in the 81st percentile, which means you've scored higher than or equal to 81% of the testing population.

ACT Score	Percentile	SAT Score
36	99+	1590
35	99	1570
34	99	1540
33	98	1510
32	97	1480
-	96	1460
31	95	1430
30	94	1410
-	93	1400
29	92	1380
-	91	1370
28	90	1350
-	89	1340
-	88	1330
27	87	1310
-	86	1300
26	85	1290
-	84	1280
-	83	1270
-	82	1260
25	81	1250
-	80	1240
-	79	1230
24	78	1220
-	76	1210
-	75	1200
23	74	1190
-	73	1180
-	71	1170
-	70	1160
22	69	1150
-	67	1140

ACT Score	Percentile	SAT Score
-	66	1130
21	64	1120
-	63	1110
-	61	1100
-	60	1090
20	59	-
-	58	1080
-	56	1070
-	55	1060
19	53	1050
-	52	1040
-	50	1030
-	49	1020
18	47	1010
-	45	1000
-	43	990
-	42	980
17	41	-
-	40	970
-	39	960
-	37	950
-	36	940
16	35	-
-	34	930
-	32	920
-	31	910
-	29	900
15	28	890
-	26	880
-	25	870
1-14	<25	400-860

ACT Percentiles are based on National Ranks for English, Math, Reading, Science, Composite, and STEM Scores, based on [ACT-tested high school graduates of 2021, 2022, and 2023](#). SAT Percentiles are based on the [2023 SAT Understanding Scores for Total Scores of SAT Users](#). Some of the SAT scores above the 85th percentile represent midpoints of score ranges; when provided ranges did not present a clear midpoint, the scores were rounded down. SAT® is a registered trademark of the College Board. ACT® is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc.